

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTIFICATION CONCERNING
TRANSMITTAL OF COPY OF INTERNATIONAL
PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(CHAPTER I OF THE PATENT COOPERATION
TREATY)
(PCT Rule 44bis.1(c))

To:

MIDDLEMIST, Ian, Alastair
Wilson Gunn
5th Floor, Blackfriars House,
The Parsonage
Manchester M3 2JA
ROYAUME-UNI

Date of mailing (*day/month/year*)
08 June 2006 (08.06.2006)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
IAM/P/29554.WO

IMPORTANT NOTICE

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/004987

International filing date (*day/month/year*)
25 November 2004 (25.11.2004)

Priority date (*day/month/year*)
27 November 2003 (27.11.2003)

Applicant

MADISON FILTER 981 LIMITED et al

The International Bureau transmits herewith a copy of the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

The International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Authorized officer

Nora Lindner

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

Applicant's or agent's file reference IAM/P/29554.WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See item 4 below
International application No. PCT/GB2004/004987	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 25 November 2004 (25.11.2004)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 27 November 2003 (27.11.2003)	
International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237			
Applicant MADISON FILTER 981 LIMITED			

1. This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 bis.1(a).

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.

In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

4. The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis .2).

Date of issuance of this report
29 May 2006 (29.05.2006)

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Authorized officer Nora Lindner Telephone No. +41 22 338 89 65
Facsimile No. +41 22 740 14 35	

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

REC'D 24 FEB 2005

WIPO

PCT

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY
(PCT Rule 43bis.1)Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 belowInternational application No.
PCT/GB2004/004987International filing date (day/month/year)
25.11.2004Priority date (day/month/year)
27.11.2003International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
B01D25/176Applicant
MADISON FILTER 981 LIMITED

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

Box No. I Basis of the opinion
 Box No. II Priority
 Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
 Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 Box No. VI Certain documents cited
 Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
 Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



European Patent Office
D-80298 Munich
Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d
Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465

Authorized Officer

Sembritzki, T

Telephone No. +49 89 2399-8626

Europäisches Patentamt - European Patent Office
D-80298 München

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/004987

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - a sequence listing
 - table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - in written format
 - in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - contained in the international application as filed.
 - filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/004987

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or
industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	2-6, 8-22
	No: Claims	1,7
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	2-6,8-22
	No: Claims	1,7
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-22
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Box No. VI Certain documents cited

1. Certain published documents (Rules 43bis.1 and 70.10)
and / or
2. Non-written disclosures (Rules 43bis.1 and 70.9)

see form 210

Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

see separate sheet

Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1: EP-A-0 636 397 (JUNKER-FILTER GMBH) 1 February 1995 (1995-02-01)
- D2: GB-A-1 075 736 (POLYSIUS S.A.R.L) 12 July 1967 (1967-07-12)
- D3: WO 2004/030790 A (MICRONICS, INC) 15 April 2004 (2004-04-15)
- D4: WO 2004/000435 A (MADISON FILTER 981 LIMITED; ROBERT, BELL) 31 December 2003 (2003-12-31)

Item V:

1. Novelty and inventive step

1.1 Present claim 1 is unclear in that the "pressure exerting means" are not sufficiently defined (Article 6 PCT). The term "means" only defines that at least something is present, which is able to provide a pressure, it is, however, not clear, whether these "means" represent a separate device, the form of the edge strip or the material thereof.

D1, which is considered to represent the closest prior art, discloses a filter cloth having an edge strip comprising an elongated body which fits into a corresponding groove in a filter plate (see D1, abstract). D1 further discloses a resilient material and special outer forms of the elongated body, which are able to provide a pressure for fixing the elongated body within the groove, accordingly "means" for exerting pressure are foreseen. Since these "means" for exerting pressure are of the same material than the whole elongated body, the subject-matter of independent claim 1 and of dependent claim 7 is not novel (Article 6 PCT).

1.2 Since the common concept to combine an engagement of a complementary part with additional pressure is already known, the subject-matter of the dependent claims which are directly dependent on claim 1 are not so linked as to form an inventive concept (Rule 13.1 PCT), since they define different solutions for different problems.

However, these solutions seem to be neither disclosed in nor suggested by documents D1 and D2

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/GB2004/004987

2. Industrial application

The industrial applicability is obvious.

Item VI:

Certain documents cited

Documents D3 and D4 claim older priorities and will become relevant in the regional phase.

Item VII

Further deficiencies

1. The independent claims are not in the two-part form in accordance with Rule 6.3(b) PCT, which in the present case would be appropriate, with those features known in combination from the prior art being placed in the preamble (Rule 6.3(b)(I) PCT) and with the remaining features being included in the characterising part (Rule 6.3(b)(ii) PCT).
2. The features of the claims are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).